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# Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 33 | Min 23 | Humidity 34% Partly Cloudy Sensex 74,227 | Nifty 22,535 | Gold 88,332 | Silver 90,200 | Dollar 86.16 | Euro 94.35 | GBP 110.08

## BREATH TAKING

As researchers flag rise in asthma cases among kids, experts say more should be done to spread awareness about respiratory condition

PAGE 2

## FENCE EATS CROP

As Visvesvaraya Towers that was built in 2022 at Rs 72 lakh gets trashed, PWD shifts blames on to BBMP

PAGE 6

**Karnataka's police department is currently facing a staff shortage, with 18,581 positions vacant out of a sanctioned strength of 1,11,330 even as retirement rates outpace recruitments**

# ALL HANDS NOT ON DECK

## State's police-public ratio is 165.04 officers per 1 lakh population

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Karnataka State Police Department is grappling with a significant staffing shortfall as retirement rates outpace recruitment efforts. This imbalance has led to increased workloads for existing personnel and raised concerns about maintaining effective law enforcement across the state.

An officer highlighted that by the time new recruitment orders are issued, another batch of officers retires, perpetuating the staffing gap. The staffing shortages have also led to increased workloads for current officers, potentially affecting their efficiency and well-being.

Karnataka's police department is currently facing a staff shortage, with 18,581 positions vacant out of a sanctioned strength of 1,11,330. The actual force strength stands at 92,749. In districts like Tumakuru, the disparity between sanctioned positions and active personnel is evident.

The vacancies include 6,591 Police Constable positions, 819 Head Constable positions, 2,107-Armed Police Constable

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

Home Minister G Parameshwara, Minister for Social Welfare HC Mahadevappa and DG & IGP Alok Mohan flagged off the new police vehicles at Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Tuesday

**"The entire recruitment process—from notification to selection, appointment, and training—takes nearly two years, with training alone lasting 8 to 9 months**

—Senior police official

# Murky business at schools

With meagre funds and no monitoring, circulars banning use of students to clean up school toilet premises are not effective, say child rights activists

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With the latest incident of children being made to clean school toilet premises, child rights activists have questioned the use of Karnataka Department of School Education's circulars, banning such activities. They have also pointed out that as of now the department has sanctioned just Rs 9,250 per year towards cleaning a school with five-50 students. This, they say, is too little to ensure that students are not roped in for such activities.

Child rights activists BM spoke to said not only must the authorities ensure funds and manpower to clean toilets at schools, but also ensure that the circulars reach all schools in the state, especially in rural areas.

The Commissioner, Karnataka Department of School Education, had sent a circular on March 26 directing the teachers not to use students to clean toilets. The circular has also made it clear that any violation will lead to disciplinary action, including registering a first information report (FIR) against the head masters of such schools. It is said the latest circular was

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

## THINGS TO DO

### 01 Exquisite craft

Hi Life Exhibitions is bringing luxurious fashion, exquisite jewellery, and elegant home décor all under one roof.
**Where: The Lalit Ashok, Seshadripuram;**
**When: April 11, 12,13, 10 am to 8 pm**

### 02 Art exhibition

Artisera is presenting 'KARTAB', Gurmeet Marwah's first-ever solo exhibition, featuring paintings, woodcuts, and sculptures.
**Where: Artisera, Indiranagar.**

**When: April 12 to May 4**

### 03 Soulful performance

Ranga Shankara is presenting 'HELLO TO EMPTINESS', a performative reflection on social vulnerability and on how we deal with grief.
**Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar;**
**When: April 15 and 16, 7.30 pm**

### 04 Myth meets modernity

The Ennui Collective is presenting 'Thus Spake Shoorpanakha, So Said Shakuni', which entails stories of power, ambition, and revenge spanning history and myth.
**Where: Jagriti Theatre, Whitefield;**
**When: April 13, 3.30 pm and 7.30 pm**

### 05 Ear check-up

To mark 20 years of excellence, Samvaad Institute of Speech and Hearing offers a free assessment camp for vertigo and tinnitus.
**Where: Samvaad Institute of Speech and Hearing, Hebbal.**
**When: April 3 to 10**

# Research confirms asthma prevalence in school children

## Premature birth, family history of allergy, poor air quality, passive smoking, along with rising pollution are key contributing factors to asthma, experts say

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Experts suggest that information, education, and communication activities should be undertaken to spread awareness in the society about asthma, which has been on the rise in recent years

Researchers from various organisations have highlighted that a sizable number of children in Bengaluru are asthmatic.

The study conducted by researchers from Kempegowda Institute of Medical Sciences and The Oxford Medical College in Bengaluru, looked at a total of 1,140 children selected randomly from 8 schools in Bengaluru South Zone and found that 66 of them had bronchial asthma. The children were between the age group of 10 and 15 years, studying in classes V to X.

Factors contributing to asthma in these children included exposure to passive smoking, premature birth, a family history of allergic disorders, inadequate ventilation, a history of allergic rhinitis, and skin conditions such as atopic dermatitis.

The health issue has also led to missed school days. In the past year, nearly 40% of the asthmatic children were absent from school for 1–7 days, and 9.1 % were absent for 8–14 days.

### Key triggers behind asthma

A researcher highlighted that bronchial asthma was significantly associated with a positive family history of allergic disorders. "Preterm birth was also a significant risk factor for the development of asthma. Despite the lack of a statistically significant association between passive smoking and asthma in this study, passive smoking was observed more frequently in asthmatic children, than in non-asthmatic children," the researchers noted.

> **"The health issue has also led to missed school days. In the past year, nearly 40% of the asthmatic children were absent from school for 1–7 days, and 9.1 % were absent for 8–14 days**
> –From the study

Experts suggest that information, education, and communication activities should be undertaken to spread awareness in the society about asthma, which has been on the rise in recent years.

According to city-based healthcare professionals, the incidence of bronchial asthma has increased across all age groups. Bengaluru has seen a multifold increase in the incidence of asthma in children.

Increase in vehicular population and surge in construction activities in the city are a few other reasons leading to a high number of asthma cases in children, doctors say.

"The suspended particulate matter from diesel burning has increased significantly in the last few years, which is adding to the woes of children with asthma," said Dr Srikanta J T, Consultant - Paediatric Interventional Pulmonology, Aster RV Hospital. He added that people have continuously improved their indoor environments to such an extent that they have failed to realize that indoor allergens have also become a significant factor in the rise of allergic asthma.

### Early asthma linked to high population

Overcrowded schools are contributing to a rise in infections, which in turn increases the risk of asthma in children during preschool years and beyond.

Dr Sachin Kumar, Senior Consultant - Pulmonology and Critical Care Medicine, Sakra World Hospital, Bengaluru, opined that the crowded conditions in the city facilitates the rapid spread of viral infections. He explained that children attending schools interact closely with their peers, which makes this age group especially vulnerable to airborne pollutants and infectious droplets. "The city itself is known as the capital of allergies and pollution. We are seeing an increase of around 4–5 asthma cases per week in children aged 11 to 15 years," he said.

# SBI affirms commitment to customer interest

In response to the adverse telecast in some electronic media, State Bank of India (SBI) released a statement clarifying that it does not put a hold or debit amount from any customer's account without the consent of the customer or unless specifically instructed by government authorities, competent courts, or competent tax authorities. "State Bank of India is committed to protecting its customers' interest and public money is always safe with our bank," said the Assistant General Manager (M&C and CSR), in the statement.

# Over 73% students clear second PU exams

The results of the second PU Exam-1, announced on Tuesday, showed an overall pass percentage of 73.45% across all streams. Science students secured the highest pass rate at 82.54%, followed by Commerce at 76.07%, while the Arts stream recorded a pass percentage of 53.29%.

The examinations were conducted across 1,171 centres throughout the state, from March 1 to March 20, 2025. Evaluation was carried out between March 21 and April 2 at 76 centres, involving 28,092 evaluators.

Girls outperformed boys once again this year. Out of 3,45,694 girls who appeared, 2,69,212 passed, resulting in a 77.88% pass rate. In comparison, of the 2,92,111 boys who appeared, 1,99,227 passed, with a pass percentage of 68.20%.

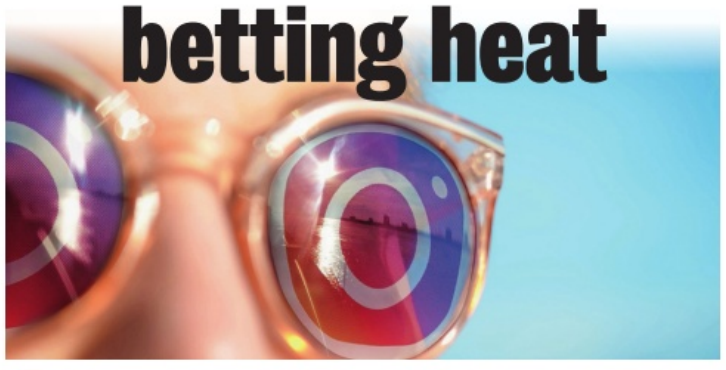
**Students will have an opportunity to improve or complete their scores in the upcoming second PUC Exam-2, which will be conducted from April 24 to May 8, 2025**

Urban students had a higher success rate than their rural counterparts. Of the 5,03,300 urban students, 3,75,188 passed, marking a 74.55% pass rate. Rural students recorded a 69.33% pass rate, with 93,251 passing out of 1,34,505.

School Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa said that students will have an opportunity to improve or complete their scores in the upcoming second PUC Exam-2, which will be conducted from April 24 to May 8, 2025. Exam-3 is scheduled from June 9 to June 21, 2025. "Importantly, there will be no examination fee for girl students of all categories and for boy students belonging to Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), and Category-1. Students who were unable to appear for Exam-1 due to attendance shortages may register as private candidates for Exam-2 or Exam-3 as per board guidelines," he said.

He also said that students seeking scanned copies of their answer scripts can apply between April 8 and April 13, 2025. Applications for revaluation and retotaling will be accepted from April 12 to April 17, only for those who have applied for scanned copies. Additionally, he instructed colleges to upload the details of repeaters, candidates who have not completed, and improvement candidates on the Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB) PU exam portal. **–BMB**

# Reel it in: Over 40 influencers face betting heat



Over 40 Kannada social media influencers and 'reels stars', including Sonu and Dachu, were warned by Cyber Police for IPL betting promotions. The influencers are under the scanner of the Bengaluru Cyber Crime Police for promoting illegal IPL betting apps on Instagram and other platforms.

The crackdown comes after several influencers were found posting stories and reels endorsing betting apps, earning between ₹1,000 and ₹10,000 per post. Those under investigation include popular names like Varun Aradhya, Sonu Gowda, Shilpa Gowda, Deepak Gowda, and Dachu.

According to police sources, these influencers promoted betting-related content such as predicting match outcomes, encouraging users to place bets, and sharing links provided by online bookies. In return, they received payments from betting operators to publicise the apps to their large follower bases.

Police, who had been monitoring these activities on Instagram, issued notices and summoned the influencers for questioning. Most admitted to unknowingly promoting the apps without verifying the legality of the content. "We have gathered information from over 40 individuals. If they are found promoting such content again, strict legal action will be taken," said a senior cybercrime officer. The influencers have been warned and asked to refrain from endorsing any form of betting or gambling. The investigation is ongoing, and police are also tracking the bookies behind these promotions. —BMB

THIEVES ON PROWL

# New help flees with jewels

In a crackdown, Suddaguntepalya Police have recovered gold and diamond jewellery worth ₹10 lakh stolen by a domestic worker just two days after she was hired. The accused, Kalpana (40), a native of Dharmapuri district in Tamil Nadu, had joined Raghav Reddy's residence in Venkateshwara Layout on March 13. On March 15, she allegedly fled with 128 grams of ornaments kept in a cupboard.

A theft case was registered on March 25 at the Suddaguntepalya Police Station. Police traced her to her residence in Tamil Nadu and served a notice. The stolen valuables were recovered on March 26 and brought back to Bengaluru. Police said the accused will be issued a further notice to cooperate with investigation.

# Security guards held in burglary case

Talaghattapura police arrested five Nepali nationals—Lal Bahadur Bora, Kamal Bahadur, Kiran Bora, Netra Bahadur, and Rajesh Bahadur—accused of committing a house theft in JHBCS Layout, Gubbalala. The gang, who worked as security guards in apartments, broke into a locked house on March 28 after the occupants left for work. They fled with 502 grams of gold and diamond jewellery, 4.5 kg of silver articles, and mobile phones, after strategically disconnecting the CCTV.

Acting swiftly, police tracked down one accused near Karishta Hills within 48 hours and nabbed the remaining four from a lodge on Kanakapura Main Road. The stolen valuables, worth ₹50 lakh, were recovered from their possession, including from a house and one of the accused's wives. This is said to be the gang's first theft attempt, and all five have now been remanded to judicial custody.

# Cops bust car theft

A complaint was lodged at Subramanyapura Police Station on March 28 after a man from Papaya Garden, Banashankari 3rd Phase, allegedly fled with an Innova car and over ₹2.20 crore in cash. The money was part of a land deal in which Savita and Sukumar sold a property to Rakesh for ₹2.47 crore. Sukumar, who received the payment in cash, rented an Innova to transport the amount home. When he briefly stopped near ICICI Bank to deposit ₹1 lakh, his friend Manjunath, who was driving the vehicle, drove off with the car and the remaining cash.

A CCTV clip later showed Manjunath transferring a bag of money from the Innova to his Swift car. On March 29, police intercepted the duo near KM Doddy, Bharathinagar Government Senior Primary School. Both Manjunath and his accomplice, Krishnakumar, were arrested. Authorities recovered ₹2,20,48,000 in cash, the Swift car used for shifting the money, and the Innova valued at ₹15 lakhs—bringing the total haul to about ₹2.35 crore.

The accused were produced in court on March 31 and remanded to police custody for three days. On April 2, 2025, they were subsequently sent to judicial custody. The Subramanyapura Police are now coordinating with the ED and IT department over the substantial cash recovery.

# Padma Bushan Chitra's Soulful Symphony: A Divine Evening in Namma Bengaluru

For many, her voice has been the soothing background score to growing up, from lullabies playing on the radio to soulful melodies on television. But on the night of April 5, the magic of KS Chithra wasn't confined to a speaker. It swept over a sea of mesmerised fans at Phoenix Marketcity, produced by Mahaloth Melodies, as the legendary singer took the stage for a soul-stirring concert that felt like a homecoming for her voice.

An audience of over 5000, spanning a mix of generations who have cherished her music for decades—gathered at the open-air venue well before the performance began. As the first notes rang out, a hush fell over the crowd. Chithra enchanted them with timeless melodies like Payalay Chunmun Chunmun, Saathiya Toone Kya Kiya, Madikeri Sipaayi, Jotheyali Jothe Jotheyali, Kannalanae, Kasam Ki Kasam, and Indu Baanigella Habba. For many, it was more than just a concert—it was nostalgia brought to life.

KS Chithra, affectionately called the "Nightingale of the South," sang with the same emotional depth and effortless grace. Whether it was a haunting Carnatic raga or a peppy film hit, her voice moved fluidly. During the interview KS Chithra reveals that the secret to conveying the emotional depth of songs in unfamiliar languages lies in fully grasping their essence. "I ask the composers or directors about the context of the song and the meanings of any unfamiliar words. They walk me through the situation and how it will be portrayed on screen and I try to absorb and adapt as much as I can from that. The language might change, but emotions remain universal, grasping the meaning has always helped me connect on an emotional level," she shares.

Over her illustrious career, KS Chithra has recorded more than 20,000 songs in over a dozen languages, from Malayalam and Kannada to Urdu and Punjabi. Her voice has danced through devotional hymns, film soundtracks, and classical compositions KS Chithra describes her career in one word as " Time flies" she said she never realised how 46 years of her career has passed.

Reflecting on the changes in the music industry over the years, Chithra shares that there was a time when she would travel to Bengaluru every month Saturday or Sunday to record several tracks, sometimes as many as 9 to 10 songs in one go. But things have shifted since the lockdown, with most recording work now happening online or closer to home. "Back then, it felt like family when everyone came together to record. Now, we often don't even know who we're tuning with," she says with a hint of nostalgia. Despite the changes, Bengaluru still holds a special place in Chithra's heart.

Between songs, she addressed the crowd, thanking the city for its love and support over the years. She said, drawing heartfelt applause. As the evening ended with her the crowd sang along through clapping their hands along with drums, holding up phone flashlights like modern-day diyas, illuminating the night sky.

— BMB

# Twin tunnel from Hebbal to Silk Board set to take shape

## State clears ₹17,780 crore twin tunnel linking Hebbal to Silk Board; access ramps to come up at four major junctions

A representational image of a twin-tube tunnel, similar to the one planned between Hebbal and Silk Board in Bengaluru

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The government has begun preparations to construct a 16.5-km twin tunnel corridor connecting Esteem Mall near Hebbal to Silk Board on Hosur Road. The construction tender is expected to be floated in April.

### Strategic study and financial planning

Sources said the Urban Development Department has directed BBMP to appoint strategic consultants to evaluate tender models and financial resources for the project. Following this, The Boston Consulting Group India Pvt Ltd has been awarded a ₹8.50 crore contract to conduct the study. Additionally, a feasibility report for the Bengaluru Urban Integrated Traffic Plan has been assigned to a private firm for ₹5.54 crore, while the detailed project report (DPR) for the tunnel construction has been entrusted to another consultancy firm for ₹9.45 crore.

### Tunnel construction and funding

Designed as a twin-tube tunnel, similar to the one operational in Mumbai, the project has received in-principle approval from the government. The construction cost will be shared in a 60:40 ratio between the contractor and BBMP. The state government has extended a ₹19,000 crore guarantee for tunnel projects covering both the east-west and north-south corridors.

> **The north-south tunnel will be built 125 feet underground to minimise land acquisition, but around 45 acres will still be needed for access points**
>
> –BBMP official

A BBMP official said, "For the north-south tunnel, BBMP is securing loans from HUDCO at a 9% interest rate to fund the first phase. The tunnel will be constructed at a depth of 125 feet below the surface, ensuring minimal land acquisition. However, in areas where access points are needed—such as Mekhri Circle, Chalukya Circle, Lalbagh, and Silk Board Junction—45 acres will be acquired at an estimated cost of ₹3,000 crore."

### Total project cost and future plans

Sources said the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) model will be followed for implementing the tunnel corridor project, with the overall cost pegged at ₹17,780.13 crore. Under this model, the selected contractor will finance, construct, and operate the tunnel for a fixed period before transferring it back to the authorities. This approach is expected to reduce the immediate financial burden on the government while ensuring timely execution.

# Damaged pipeline leaves Ejipura locals with contamined tap water

## No warning or water tankers from BWSSB; residents battle double expense and demand urgent action to fix supply system

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Some residents of Ejipura were shocked to find a foul smell emanating from their taps and underground water sumps. Forced to take immediate action, they had to spend money to clean their sumps and purchase water from private suppliers.

Residents said they were unable to bathe on Sunday as the Cauvery water supplied to them was contaminated. "I noticed a foul smell coming from the water sump. Out of curiosity and concern, I opened the sump cover and realised the water was unusable. I had no choice but to drain and clean the sump, which cost me extra. The workers were hesitant to clean it due to the stench and ended up charging 4,000 instead of the usual 2,000," said Janet Yagneshwaran, a resident of 20th L Cross, Ejipura.

Water sample collected by Janet Yagneshwaran, one of the residents of Ejipura

Expressing disappointment over the contamination of Cauvery water, Narayana Reddy, who runs a paying guest accommodation, said he had to spend 800 for a tanker of water. "We received contaminated water on both Sunday and Monday. I had no choice but to buy water from private suppliers. It was very difficult to ensure water availability for the paying guests," he said.

Demanding that the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) take immediate action to prevent the supply of contaminated water, V Shankarappa, in-charge of the AMR Salar Apartment complex, said he had to release the polluted water into a roadside drain. "We noticed a foul smell coming from the sump and found the water to be contaminated. I arranged for the sump to be cleaned on Sunday itself, as it was unsafe to use the water. It's a double expense for us—we have to pay for both sump cleaning and purchasing water," he said, adding that the BWSSB engineer did not make any effort to supply tanker water to residents on Sunday or Monday.

Meanwhile, BWSSB engineer Rangaiah said the water contamination was caused by damage to a pipeline on Rama Temple Road. "We are addressing the issue and have taken steps to ensure water supply to 20th L Cross in Ejipura," he said.

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9591233247

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### Waste woes
**Puttenahalli**

Garbage has been dumped right outside a classroom at a Government School on Puttenahalli Road, adjacent to the school premises.

### Green loss
**KR Puram**

A 50-year-old tree is being ruthlessly chopped down within the premises of the BBMP office in KR Puram, raising concerns among environmentalists and residents.

### Unsafe stretch
**Rajarajeshwari Nagar**

Every new building on Double Road in RR Nagar digs across the street and leaves it uneven. Two-wheelers often skid—the latest incident occurred opposite a cafe.

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# VV Towers turns dumpyard, visitors left shocked

## PWD and BBMP blame game continues as Sir M Visvesvaraya's former residence lies in neglect

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If the heaps of garbage and empty liquor bottles on the premises of Visvesvaraya Towers are anything to go by, it seems the Public Works Department (PWD) is vying with the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to create black spots at prime locations. It is quite amusing to come across the PWD engineer blaming the BBMP for the black spot on the premises.

Heaps of garbage can be seen dumped between the main entrance and the plaza, which was constructed at an estimated cost of 72 lakh in March 2022. What's more shocking is the presence of various empty liquor bottles strewn across the premises. Once upon a time, this location was the residence of Sir M Visvesvaraya. Today, the Karnataka Temperance Board functions from the 6th floor of the main tower.

It is learnt that garbage has been accumulating for several months, with no significant effort made to clear it.

"It is quite shocking to witness the pathetic and nauseating condition of a premises that was once Sir M Visvesvaraya's residence. If the PWD cannot maintain the VV Towers, what can we expect from them elsewhere? This is a prime location, frequently visited by government officials and elected representatives, and houses many government offices," said an activist.

Neglect at VV towers continues as garbage and liquor bottles pile up, exposing civic apathy

> **"It is deeply disturbing to see public spaces littered with bottles and tetra packs from drinking episodes, especially in the heart of the city**
> –Vinod Jacob, Namma Bengaluru Foundation

Expressing concern over the PWD's negligence, Vinod Jacob of Namma Bengaluru Foundation said, "It is deeply disturbing to see public spaces littered with bottles and tetra packs from drinking episodes, especially in the heart of the city. The VV Towers are located close to Raj Bhavan, Vidhana Soudha, and the Police Commissioner's office. Most parks and playgrounds in the city face similar issues. Street lighting is inadequate, which emboldens miscreants. There is an urgent need for stronger night patrolling and improved beat scheduling by all police stations."

Meanwhile, Mahesha NS, Secretary of the Karnataka State Temperance Board, said he would alert the PWD engineer about the situation and urge them to maintain cleanliness on the premises. "We will also distribute pamphlets among cab drivers to raise awareness about the ill effects of alcohol. The PWD engineer has informed me that the garbage has been cleared," he said.

However, PWD Junior Engineer TS Prasanna blamed the BBMP for not inaugurating the plaza, which, according to him, has become a gathering place for drunkards. "The construction of the plaza was completed a long time ago, but it hasn't been officially inaugurated for public use. I will take the necessary steps to ensure the garbage is cleared," he said.

Bangalore Mirror had earlier reported on the same issue in its April 23, 2023 story, "Space Conquest," highlighting that the VV Towers plaza had not yet been thrown open to the public, even a year past the original deadline.

## HC warns media gag breach

The Karnataka High Court instructed the Union of India on April 8 to enforce its previous directive strictly, which required restraining media outlets from broadcasting defamatory or false statements about actress Harshavardini Ranya Rao and her father K Ramchandra Rao.

Justice M Nagaprasanna issued the directive after K Ramchandra Rao's counsel informed the court that certain media outlets continued airing content against the IPS officer despite the earlier court order.

On March 18, the High Court had directed the Union government to ensure that media houses refrained from publishing or broadcasting defamatory material about the actress and her father. During the recent hearing, Deputy Solicitor General Shanthi Bhushan H confirmed that appropriate instructions had been issued to media organisations.

The court, however, noted that its previous order had not been fully complied with and directed the Union of India to ensure strict enforcement. The matter has been posted for further hearing in early June.

Ranya Rao, currently in judicial custody, has been charged in a gold smuggling case. Authorities reportedly seized gold bars worth 12.56 crore from her at Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru. Further searches at her residence led to the recovery of gold jewellery valued at 2.06 crore and 2.67 crore in cash.

A civil court had earlier issued an ex-parte order on March 12, following a suit by her mother HP Rohini, restricting media from making defamatory remarks until June 2. The High Court echoed this directive in response to a similar petition by her father. **–BMB**

# 'Funds allocated for sanitation workers not enough'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

issued following the incident where students of a Government School at Begur were made to clean toilets. The police have registered a FIR against the school headmistress and a physical education teacher.

However, such circulars are not new. It may be recalled that the Commissioner, Karnataka Department of School Education had issued a similar circular on December 28, 2023, directing teachers not to make students clean toilets.

Emphasising the need for the circular to reach all the teachers of all government schools across the state, Nagasimha G Rao of Child Rights Trust said that there is a need for better communication and monitoring between schools and the education department to ensure child rights are protected, as emphasised by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) Article 25. "Many schools do not regularly visit the department's website for updates on circulars and notices. The education department should on its part conduct regular visits to schools to monitor compliance with child rights and protection policies. Schools must have a child protection policy in place, especially if they involve children in any work, as mandated since 2016, to ensure the protection and well-being of children," Rao said.

Students cleaning the school premises

Welcoming the latest circular, HC Raghavendra, a child rights activist, said the authorities must engage people who work under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) to keep the school premises clean in rural areas. "Most of the teachers are aware of the recent circular issued by the Commissioner Karnataka Department of School Education. We have to wait till the reopening of schools to know its impact," said Raghavendra.

BM had reported on April 7 about students being made to clean up near the toilets at a Yelahanka government school

Demanding the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department officials coordinate with the education department to ensure cleanliness at government schools in rural areas, Dr Thippeswamy KT, a member of Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, said that village panchayats can deploy sanitation workers to keep the school premises clean. "The Commissioner of School Education has allocated funds for keeping the school premises clean but the funds are meagre. For example, the School Education Department has sanctioned Rs 9,250 per year for a school of five to 50 students. The school that has 500 students will get only Rs 22,500 per year. How is it possible to get workers to keep the school premises clean on such a meagre amount? If the RDPR joins hands with the Education Department, the funds allocated for the maintenance of toilets can be distributed among the sanitation workers who clean the toilets and school premises. It can be an additional income for the sanitation workers," said Thippeswamy.

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# Two held for burglaries

A complaint was filed at the SJ Park Police Station on March 11 after a hardware store on Shantappa Lane, SJP Road, was burgled and cash was stolen. The shop operator had locked up the previous night, only to discover the broken door and missing ₹7,000 the following morning.

Investigations soon revealed a larger network of thefts across the state. On March 26, police arrested Ullas (23) and Kiran (24) near the lorry stand on Magadi Road. During detailed interrogations, the duo confessed to a string of offences, including breaking into a medical shop in Gauri Bidanur by damaging the shutter.

From various scenes, authorities recovered a haul that includes 6 two-wheelers, 3 high-end cars, 25 grams of gold jewellery, and 124 grams of silver articles. The combined value of these seizures from the medical shop theft and other cases stands at approximately ₹ 34.27 lakh.

Both suspects have been remanded in police custody, further investigations are underway.

# Man killed over affair

Kengeri Police have arrested a man named Dada Peer for allegedly murdering 28-year-old Sameer over an illicit affair with the victim's wife.

The incident came to light when patrolling police found Sameer's body lying in a vacant plot in Banashankari 6th Stage on Monday. The injuries indicated that the murder had occurred recently.

Investigations revealed that Dada Peer, who was reportedly in an extramarital relationship with Sameer's wife, had allegedly killed him using a sharp weapon. Sameer and his wife have a one-and-a-half-year-old child. Dada Peer has been taken into custody, and a case has been registered. West Division DCP Girish confirmed the arrest and ongoing investigation.

# KPSC told to aid pregnant candidate

The Karnataka High Court has instructed the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) to arrange the main examination for a pregnant candidate in Kalaburagi, rather than the designated centres, considering her advanced pregnancy stage.

The candidate sought permission to take the Group-A post examination in her residential city of Kalaburagi, instead of the allocated centres in Bengaluru and Dharwad.

Justice Dr Chillakur Sumalatha rejected KPSC's contention about the impracticality of conducting the examination at Kalaburagi for a single candidate.

"Our country is spending crores of rupees for conducting elections and bye-elections, if required. Due to a lack of planning and vision, public money is frequently put to waste. But, here is a case where the State submits before this Court that it cannot spend money to conduct an examination for a deserving candidate. The makers of the Constitution, considering the fact that women require special treatment, have envisaged under Part III of the Constitution certain privileges exclusively for women," the court said.

The Court acknowledged this case warranted special consideration.

The Court observed that Kalaburagi possessed adequate infrastructure for examination arrangements, including CCTV facilities. **BMB**

# Court orders BBMP school audit

The Karnataka High Court has instructed the Karnataka State Legal Services Authority to form a team to assess infrastructure facilities at 49 BBMP (Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike) operated schools in Bengaluru.

Chief Justice NV Anjaria and Justice KV Aravind, comprising the division bench, stated, "Teams shall examine and take assessment in respect of toilets, adequacy and cleanliness thereof, drinking water facilities, general cleanliness in the premises of the school and other basic amenities needed for a healthy climate in the school for the students."

The bench further specified, "The entire exercise shall be completed within one month from today. The elaborate record shall be prepared in respect of each 49 schools and shall be placed before the court." This directive emerged from a suo-motu Public Interest Litigation initiated after media reports highlighted significant student dropouts .

The court has instructed the Legal Services Authority Secretary to establish teams, each comprising three members: a judicial officer selected by the Secretary and two law students from city colleges serving as legal volunteers. The court stated, "The teams with such a constitution may be constituted to visit the 49 schools without notice to BBMP." **BMB**

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# Police department struggles to fill the staff shortage gap

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

(City Armed Reserve/District Armed Reserve) posts and 3,830 Reserve Police Constable (Karnataka State Reserve Police) posts.

To address the shortfall, the government has approved the recruitment of 4,115 police personnel, including 600 sub-inspectors but a senior police official noted that the process is being worked out and notification on the same is awaited.

## Delay in recruitment

Regular recruitment can help address the staff shortage issue, but the frequency of recruitment is insufficient. Ideally, a system should be in place where a new recruit joins the same day someone retires. However, vacancies often remain unfilled for extended periods, and home guards are hired temporarily.

"The entire recruitment process—from notification to selection, appointment, and training—takes nearly two years, with training alone lasting 8 to 9 months. While getting the statistics in advance can sometimes help facilitate early recruitment, the absence of hiring for over two years creates a significant challenge," a senior police official told BM.

According to the latest data from the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D), the state's police-public ratio is 165.04 officers per 1 lakh population, which remains below the national average of 196.88.

Despite these recruitment efforts, the process of hiring and training new officers is time-consuming. The delay means that by the time new recruits are ready for duty, additional officers may have retired, making it difficult to close the staffing gap.

While the Karnataka government is making efforts to recruit new officers, the challenge remains to synchronise recruitment with retirement rates effectively. Advanced and consistent recruitments could help mitigate the staffing issues, officials said.

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## personal

### CHANGE OF NAME

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I, Megha Ashokkumar Jain W/o Ashish Jain R/o #7,8th Cross, St. Bed layout, Near mantri Classic, Kormangala B'lore-560095 have changed my name to Megha Ashok Jain

I Umran Pasha Badar S/O, Badar Pasha R/o No 2 4th Cross, Shabad Nagar Kavalbyrasandra, R T Nagar Post Bengaluru Karnataka 560032. have changed my name to Umran Pasha.

**CHANGE-OF-NAME**
This is to declare that I, Neeta, aged about 36 years, wife of Sri.Ramayan, Resident of No.249, Barkachh, Near Mandir, Shahdol, Madhya Pradesh –484774, presently R/at: Sri Sirdi Anandasai Temple Premises, Lake Road, Hulimavu, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore-560076, have changed my name hitherto stated & referred to as Neeta to NEETA PAYASI vide affidavit sworn to before Notary Sri. Ravi Kumar.V. on the 7th day of April, 2025, at Bengaluru. Hereinafter, I wish to be called & known for all acts, deeds & things as Neeta Payasi only.
Sd/- NEETA PAYASI.
Place: Bengaluru
Date: 07-04-2025

I, Akshata Harish Babu Elluru W/O, Harish Babu E R/o 203,sri Sai Greens Apartment, 2nd Floor, Alpha Gardens, 7th Cross, Kodigehalli Road, Kr Puram, Bangalore 560036 have changed my name to Akshata Elluru for all purposes.

I, DENESHA H J,residing at 03,3rd cross,New Extension,Medahalli,Virgonagar,Bengaluru-560 049. I have changed my name to DINESHA H J. Vide affidavit dated 07/04/2025 sworn before notary.KODI NAGAPPAYA Bengaluru.

I, K. Hanumantha Rayudu R/O No 212, Mathru Residency, 3rd cross, Sonnappa Layout, Dasarahalli, Bhubaneswar Nagar Bengaluru-560092 changed my name from Hanumantha Rayudu to K. Hanumantha Rayudu for all future purposes.(K full form is Kakarla).

I Shreya D Joshi , W/o Shridhar Purohit, 201, Saivarenya apartment, 6th cross, 9th main, Subramanyapura layout, Turahalli, Uttarahalli Bangalore 560061, have Changed my name from Shreeya D Joshi to Shreya D Joshi

I, RAMESH KUMAR TEJRAJ KATARAIYA, residing at 264 old no 711, BSA Road, A K Colony, Fraser Town, Bengaluru-560005.I have changed my name to RAMESH KUMAR KATARIYA. Vide affidavit dated 07/04/2025 sworn before notary. KODI NAGAPPAYA Bengaluru.

I, Padmasri Govindhan D/o Govindh Ramasamy R/at #C07002 Shriram southern crest, Sarakki signal, kanakapura Road, JP Nagar 6th Phase, Bengaluru 560078 s, have changed my name to Padma sri Govindh, for all purposes

I, Latha Govindhan D/o Kuppusamy , R/at # C07002. Shriram southern crest, Sarakki signal, kanakapura Road, JP Nagar 6th Phase, Bengaluru 560078 s, have changed my name to Latha Govindh, for all purposes

I, Hari Krishna. K R/O No 212, Mathru Residency, 3rd cross, Sonnappa Layout, Dasarahalli, Bhubaneswar Nagar Blr-560092 changed my name from Hari Krishna to Hari Krishna. K for all future purposes.(K full form is Kakarla ).

I, Thophick Ahamad, s/o Bhasha Mohabib Sab, R/o Near Chethana School Someshwara, Badavane Doddaballpura-561203, have changed my name to Thophick Ahmed for all purposes.

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I, RAVIKUMARA S B, residing at 10,Shiradanahalli, Mallipatna, Arkalgud, Hassan-573102. I have changed my name to RAVI KUMAR S B. Vide affidavit dated 07/04/2025 sworn before notary. KODI NAGAPPAYA Bengaluru.

I, KHJA MEER FIROZ HUSSAIN, R/a#2148 39th Cross Eastend C Main Jayanagar 9th Block Bangalore-41. I, have Changed my name to KHAJA MEER FIROZ HUSSAIN, Vide affidavit, dated 05/04/2025 Sworn before Notary: Meer Hussain. Bangalore

I, K. Radha Devi R/O No 212, Mathru Residency, 3rd cross, Sonnappa Layout, Dasarahalli, Bhubaneswar Nagar Blr-560092 changed my name from Radha Devi to K. Radha Devi for all future purposes.(K full form is Kakarla ).

### LOST & FOUND

**LOSS OF DOCUMENT**
I, Shylaja K N, w/o Suresh Babu, 32 yrs, Peresandra, Chikkaballapur Taluk. My site related Sale Agreement and Sale Deeds no. 4118/2017-18, Sale Deed no. 6083/2021-22, 4119/2017-18, Sale agreement no. 3010/2021-22 as accidentally lost near chickballapura taluk office. Same as been complained to chickballapura police station (Lost Report No. 1553709/2025). If any one finds, request to give back to the above address or contact: 7259470474

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# Safety takes snack break: 60% of munchies not up to mark

## Inspections also flag unsafe dairy, sweets, and substandard medicines, prompting fines, recalls, and legal action

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

Are we really consuming what's safe? Recent inspections by the Department of Food Safety and Drug Control have revealed alarming lapses in the quality of drinking water, processed snacks, dairy products, and even essential medicines, raising serious questions about consumer safety.

Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dinesh Gundu Rao said, "In February 2025, only 28% of the 255 packaged drinking water samples tested were found safe, while over 37% were unsafe and 35% fell under substandard quality. This means nearly 72% of bottled water samples failed to meet safety norms — a deeply concerning revelation about what we consider safe to drink."

The food on our plates is not faring much better. One of the most shocking findings was the rampant use of artificial colours in fried green peas. Of the 115 samples tested, 60% were unsafe, showing a clear threat in commonly consumed processed snacks.

"March 2025 saw intensified food inspections, with 3,204 food samples collected, focusing heavily on dairy and snacks. While all six of the ghee samples tested were found safe, only nine of 43 khova samples have been tested so far, with three found substandard. Out of 231 paneer samples, 32 were analysed, revealing two unsafe products. Among sweets and savouries, 83 of 198 samples were analysed, and two sweets were declared unsafe. However, the red flag was raised in khara mixtures, where four out of 27 samples tested unsafe, pointing to higher contamination levels in savoury items. Samples of juices, ice candies, and ice creams have also been collected, with testing underway — particularly crucial as demand rises during summer," Rao said.

PIC FOR REPRESENTATION PURPOSE ONLY

3,204 food samples were collected in March

The department didn't stop at samples. In February and March, 92 food production and sales units — especially those handling beverages and frozen desserts — were slapped with notices for serious safety violations, and six were fined Rs 38,000. Hygiene checks at 590 hotels and restaurants led to notices being issued to 214 outlets, and Rs 1.15 lakh in fines were levied on 11 establishments for poor pest control and hygiene lapses.

The surveillance is backed by robust data. In January 2025 alone, 3,608 food samples were tested, revealing 26 unsafe and 28 substandard products. In February, out of 2,543 food samples, eight were unsafe and five substandard, showing consistent trends of food safety risks.

> **"In Feb 2025, only 28% of the 255 packaged drinking water samples tested were found safe, while over 37% were unsafe**
> –Dinesh Gundu Rao, Minister

But it's not all bad news. "An awareness drive among bakery operators led to a significant drop in the unsafe use of artificial colours in cakes — from 4.06% of 295 samples in August 2024 to just 1.16% by January 2025, showcasing the impact of targeted education."

Meanwhile, the use of plastic paper in idli preparation has come under scrutiny. In February, 681 food businesses — including hotels and street vendors — were inspected, and 52 were served notices for using plastic in food preparation.

The health concerns extend beyond food. In March 2025, drug enforcement officers tested 1,891 drug samples, of which 1,298 were standard, but 41 were declared substandard. A major red flag was the Ringer Lactate Infusion, where out of 196 batches, 113 were found substandard, prompting 78 cases against manufacturers. In total, 18 court cases were filed in March, following 10 in February, and a special drive led to the recall of Rs 24.29 lakh worth of substandard drugs. February also saw 1,872 drug samples analysed, 2,078 medical shops inspected, and 215 drug licenses suspended, Rao explained.

# Court raps Darshan for skipping hearing

A Bengaluru court, which is hearing the sensational fan murder case, on Tuesday took serious objection to the absence of key accused, Kannada actor Darshan.

The Civil and Sessions Judge stated that Darshan must appear before the court in all future hearings and that no excuses will be entertained for his absence.

Darshan's counsel submitted an exemption petition, stating that the actor is suffering from back pain and is unable to attend the proceedings. He requested that Darshan be granted relief from appearing in court. Of the 17 accused in the case, 16, including the prime accused Pavithra Gowda, Darshan's partner, appeared before the court.

The matter has been adjourned to May 20. Darshan has resumed shooting for his upcoming film "Devil". Since his release from prison on October 30, 2024, after spending 131 days in custody, he has been participating in shoots in Mysuru and Rajasthan for the movie, and is also scheduled to travel to Hyderabad for filming, sources said. They added that due to his hectic shooting schedule, his back pain has worsened.

Earlier, in a big relief to the actor, an accused in the Renukaswamy murder case, the High Court on February 28 allowed him to travel across the country. Earlier, Darshan was not allowed to travel out of Bengaluru and the limits of the session's court.

Darshan, Pavithra, and 15 others were arrested on June 11, 2024, on charges of kidnapping and brutally murdering Renukaswamy, a fan from Chitradurga. —IANS

## CRIME FILES

# Woman found dead; family says husband's 'affairs' to blame

A 30-year-old woman allegedly died by suicide in Sultanapalya, Kanakanagar, Hebbal, allegedly after being distressed over her husband's illicit affairs. The deceased, Bahar Asma, was found dead in the bathroom of her home. The incident occurred sometime between 10 pm on April 6 and 10.30 am on April 7. However, her family has raised doubts over the nature of her death.

According to the complaint filed by her father, Bahar Asmara was married to Bashir Ullah on July 2, 2023. After their wedding, the couple lived together in a house in Hebbal. The family alleges that Bashir Ullah was involved in an extra-marital affair, which led to frequent domestic quarrels. They further claim that his mother Zabeen Taj, elder brother Harshad Ullah, and acquaintances Mazar Khan, Tarbez Khan, Harshia, and Naushad were complicit in encouraging or supporting this immoral relationship.

The complainant has alleged that it was the continued harassment and emotional distress that pushed Bahar to take the extreme step. The body has been sent to Ambedkar Medical College Hospital for a post-mortem. Senior Police officials confirmed that an investigation is underway to determine the exact cause and they have arrested the accused on Tuesday. Investigations are ongoing. —BMB

# Man held for cheating on pretext of marriage

A woman belonging to the Scheduled Caste (Adi Karnataka) community has lodged a complaint at the Bagalgunte Police Station, accusing a man named Thimmegowda of sexual assault, repeated deceit, caste-based abuse, and financial exploitation.

The complainant was married and had got a divorced in 2022. She claims that Thimmegowda, whom she knew during her divorce proceedings, initially posed as a supportive friend but later exploited her trust. She alleged that during a trip to Tiruchanur, Tamil Nadu, he sexually assaulted her at a hotel, under the pretext of marrying her.

According to the complaint, she became pregnant multiple times during their relationship and was allegedly forced to undergo abortions at a private hospital in Kodigehalli. She further alleged that Thimmegowda took her to several pilgrimage sites in Karnataka and continued physical relations without commitment.

When she insisted on marriage, he revealed that he was already married. The woman was allegedly subjected to threats and casteist abuse by Thimmegowda and his wife, Puttalakshmi. She also accused them of taking Rs 10.2 lakh and 150 grams of gold from her.

Following her complaint, Bagalgunte police registered a case under relevant sections of the IPC and arrested Thimmegowda. He is currently in custody, and further investigation is underway to recover the stolen items and verify the allegations. —BMB

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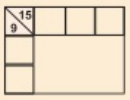
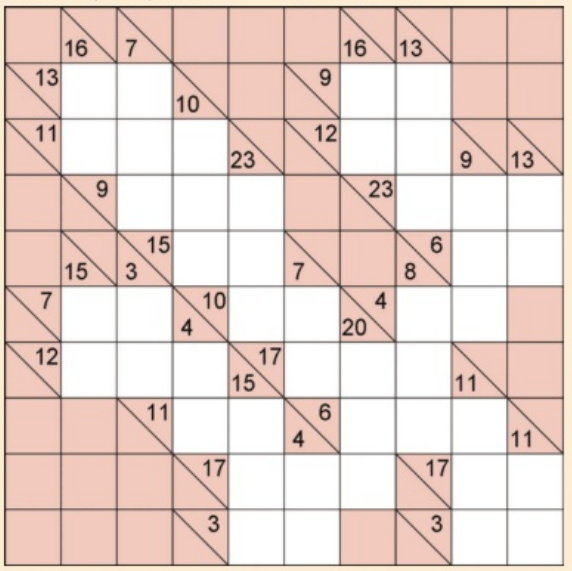
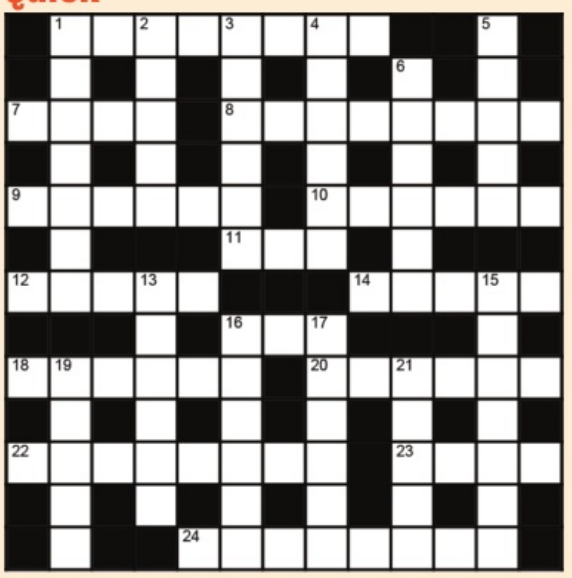


The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



## Quick



**ACROSS**

1 Reading carefully (8)
7 With competence (4)
8 Intrinsic to (8)
9 Boost (6)
10 Sloping type (6)
11 Drunkard (3)
12 Defeat conclusively (5)
14 Shop (5)
16 Alien vehicle (3)
18 Colouring stick (6)
20 Fixation (6)
22 Major south Indian river (8)
23 Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike in short (4)
24 Causing sorrow (8)

**DOWN**

1 Go to press (7)
2 Most high-born (5)
3 Economizes (6)
4 A stupid person (6)
5 Army colour (5)
6 Appalled (6)
13 Distress signal (3-3)
15 Continues after a pause (7)
16 Unjust (6)
17 Place of work (6)
19 Streets (5)
21 Forbidden (5)

## Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

**Today's CLUE: V EQUALS P**

WM QWERQLEJQXL ZTLPJQXLG WTPA ICJJCD SACL Q BXL'J AEKC JX GVCEU JX VCXVYC.

## Linemaro

You must be the Thief of Hearts, because you've just stolen mine

## Mindchow

When men are pure, laws are useless; when men are corrupt, laws are broken

## Joke of the day

Some dog I got too. We call him Egypt because he leaves a pyramid in every room

## Loop

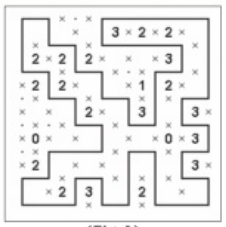
**Rules**

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

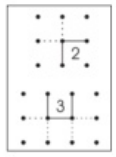
**How to begin:**

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

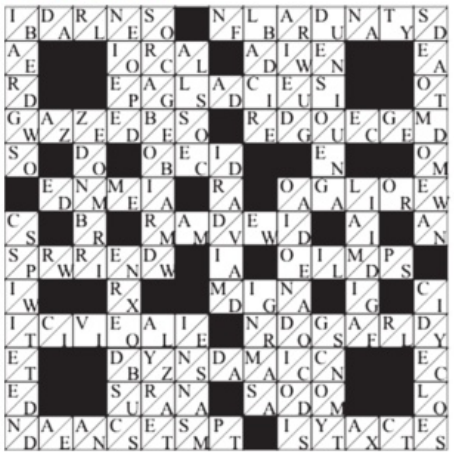


(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed

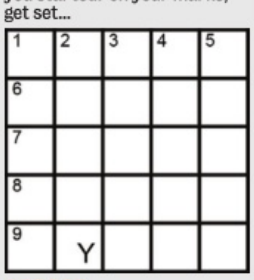
## Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

## Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



**ACROSS**

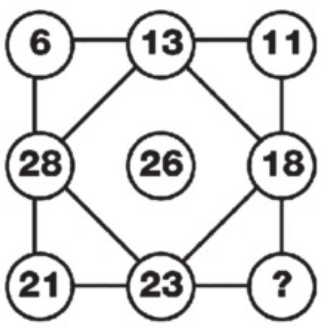
1 Viral; 6 Ceria; 7 Cum lo; 8 Eaten; 9 Treys

**DOWN**

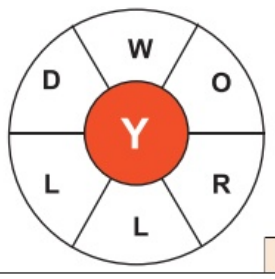
1 T reel; 2 Or yin; 3 Car VI; 4 Cue at; 5 Salem

## Mensapuzzle

Which number replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?




## Bull's eye




How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; 05 Good; 07 Outstanding

## SudokuChallenge

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 7 | | | 2 | | | 1 | |
| | 8 | | 4 | | 6 | | 7 | |
| | | 4 | | 1 | | 8 | | |
| | 9 | 5 | | | | 6 | 3 | |
| 4 | | | 9 | | 3 | | | 2 |
| | 6 | 8 | | | | 7 | 4 | |
| | | 1 | | 9 | | 3 | | |
| | 3 | | 2 | | 1 | | 5 | |
| | 5 | | | 4 | | | 9 | |

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

## Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

**Easy** = 3

2 4 5 8

**Medium** = 16

2 2 7 9

**Hard** = 3

1 4 9 9

## Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

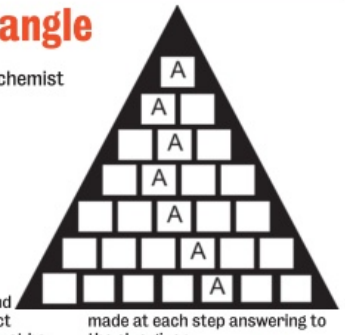
**Differences:** 1. Tile is narrower. 2. Burner is smaller. 3. Cookbook has fewer pages. 4. Chair is missing. 5. Fingers are not showing. 6. Back of stove is taller.

## Riddler

In the paragraph below, each blank must be filled by a five-letter word, and the words are all anagrams of each other (the words all contain the same five letters, in different order). Can you fill in the blanks? Quaint _____ this hotel supplies, That don't appear upon the bill. I speak of roaches, _____, and flies. You _____ and slap. They're with you still. At _____ each guest _____ pained screams That ought to plague the owner's dreams.

## Alpha triangle

1 First letter
2 Astatine for the chemist
3 Butter mass
4 Record
5 Ramble on
6 Sea robber
7 Secret

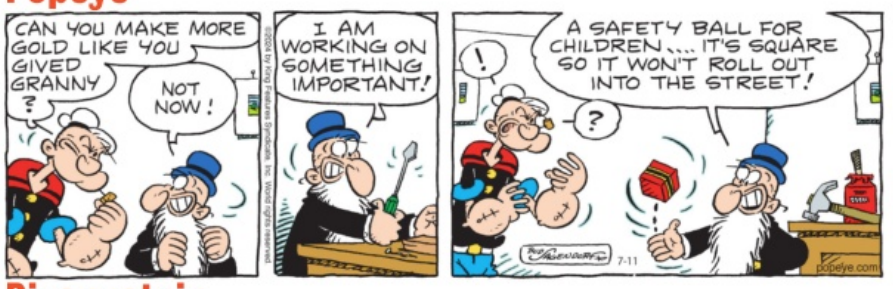



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.


DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

# COMICS

## Popeye


CAN YOU MAKE MORE GOLD LIKE YOU GIVED GRANNY ?
NOT NOW !
I AM WORKING ON SOMETHING IMPORTANT!
A SAFETY BALL FOR CHILDREN .... IT'S SQUARE SO IT WON'T ROLL OUT INTO THE STREET!
?
7-11
popeye.com

## Bizarrotrip

## Diamond Lil

## Hart of the city

## Crankshaft

I DON'T HOLD OUT A LOT OF HOPE FOR OUR TEAM IN THE PLAYOFFS!
WHY NOT?
INSTEAD OF RUNNING ONTO THE FIELD OUT OF AN INFLATABLE FOOTBALL HELMET...
THEY RAN OUT OF AN INFLATABLE BLUE INJURY TENT!
BATIUK & DAVIS

## Mutts

# WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

**Aries** Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you are blessed by a positive Moon. You may feel healthy, and chronic health issues might improve. Your children's health is also likely to stabilise. Stuck funds may finally be recovered, and you may be able to repay debts, easing your financial burden.

**Taurus** Apr 21 – May 20
The Moon brings peace of mind today. You may feel decisive and ready to seize opportunities without hesitation. Past karma could support you in navigating challenges and guiding you in the right direction. Lovebirds may enjoy quality time together, and job seekers might land a suitable role through friends' support.

**Gemini** May 21 – Jun 21
You may feel a bit low today. A sense of detachment from responsibilities could leave you upset, and unfulfilled commitments might affect your reputation. Be cautious, arrogance may impact both your personal and professional life. A lack of confidence could prevent you from expressing your creativity at work.

**Cancer** Jun 22 – July 23
You may feel energized and highly focused on your goals. This determination can help you achieve targets with ease. Work-related short trips are likely and may bring future benefits. With the support of subordinates, important projects may be completed. However, minor disputes with siblings could arise, handle with care.

**Leo** Jul 24 – Aug 23
Blessed by the Moon, you're likely to plan increased investment into your family business, which may lead to growth. Recognition for your social contributions is also possible. Good news within the family may create a joyful atmosphere, and you might indulge in some delightful meals today.

**Virgo** Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today brings happiness and good health, boosting your inner strength and confidence. Your subconscious won't allow you to be distracted by disorderly tasks. Your social standing may rise, and with the help of good karma, destiny may support the launch of an innovative project.

**Libra** Sep 24 – Oct 22
You might feel unhappy or disappointed today. Controlling arrogance is crucial, as harsh words could lead to losses. It's advised to avoid long-distance travel and rash driving. Stay away from risky locations such as coastal or bay areas.

**Scorpio** Oct 23 – Nov 22
Peace of mind returns today. Increased earnings may enhance your financial well-being. Romantic moments with your spouse may deepen your emotional connection. Singles could find a suitable partner. At work, opportunities may present themselves, helping you make noticeable progress in life.

**Sagittarius** Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, your strong professional network may help you implement key plans. You might secure a significant deal due to your dedication. Mutual understanding with your spouse may improve domestic harmony. Your boss could recognize and appreciate your hard work.

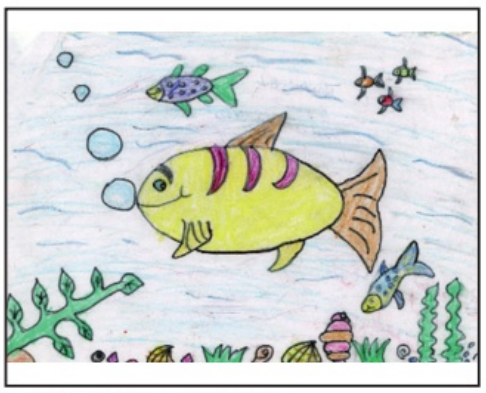
**Capricorn** Dec 23 – Jan 20
The Moon's blessings help you move past recent chaos. You may resume delayed tasks, and your efforts could be rewarded. Business gains are likely, boosting your financial status. An unexpected opportunity may arise, expanding your career or business. Overseas travel plans could also develop.

**Aquarius** Jan 21 – Feb 19
You may feel unwell today, which could impact both work and family life. Your spouse's health might also be a concern, testing your patience. Avoid new business investments as potential losses loom. Students should steer clear of distractions and focus on their studies with dedication.

**Pisces** Feb 20 – Mar 20
The Moon blesses you with clarity and decisiveness in your professional life. New business opportunities may appear, boosting your confidence. A fresh innovative idea, possibly developed with a business partner, could lead to future growth and success.

## KIDZONE

Shivansh, 6 Years, N C F E School


Nandini B H, 6 Years, Sindhi High School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

## SOLUTIONS

**SOLVE IN 1M**
$(-3)^3 = (-3)(-3)(-3) = -27$
$9 \times 2 \times 4 = 72$
$72 - 27 = 45$

**RIDDLER** Quaint ITEMS this hotel supplies, that don't appear upon the bill. I speak of roaches, MITES, and flies. You SMITE and slap. They're with you still. At TIMES each guest EMITS pained screams that ought to plague the owner's dreams.

**BULL'S EYE**
dolly, dowry, lordly, lowly, rowdy, wordy, WORLDLY

**FAST FIVE**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| T | Y | R | E | S |
| E | N | A | T | E |
| L | O | C | U | M |
| E | R | I | C | A |
| R | I | V | A | L |

**STRIKE OUT**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| D | E | N | S | E | S | T | S | T | A | T | E | | | |
| E | | U | R | N | A | D | O | | | | L | | | |
| T | | D | Y | N | A | M | I | C | | | C | | | |
| T | I | V | O | L | I | | R | O | S | A | R | Y | | |
| I | | X | | D | I | N | | I | | | C | | | |
| P | R | I | E | D | | I | E | L | M | S | | | | |
| S | | B | R | A | V | E | D | | A | | N | | | |
| | E | M | M | A | | A | | A | G | L | O | W | | |
| S | | O | | B | E | D | | | N | | | O | | |
| G | A | Z | E | B | O | | E | D | U | C | E | D | | |
| R | | P | A | L | A | C | E | S | | | T | | | |
| E | | O | C | A | | A | W | N | | | E | | | |
| B | A | R | N | S | | F | L | A | U | N | T | S | | |

**QUICK**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| P | E | R | U | S | I | N | G | | F | L | A | U | N | T |
| U | | O | | K | | I | | A | | H | | | | E |
| L | | A | | M | | W | | H | | K | | | | R |
| A | B | L | Y | | I | N | T | E | G | R | A | L | | |
| F | I | L | L | I | P | | I | T | A | L | I | C | | |
| L | | A | | M | | W | | H | | K | | | | |
| S | | O | | B | E | D | | | N | | | O | | |
| | E | M | M | A | | A | | A | G | L | O | W | | |
| S | | B | R | A | V | E | D | | A | | N | | | |
| P | R | I | E | D | | I | E | L | M | S | | | | |
| I | | X | | D | I | N | | I | | | C | | | |
| T | I | V | O | L | I | | R | O | S | A | R | Y | | |
| O | | D | | F | | A | | | | | U | | | |
| C | R | A | V | O | N | | F | E | T | I | S | H | | |
| | | A | | U | F | O | | | | | E | | | |
| T | H | U | M | P | | | | S | T | O | R | E | | |
| S | | | | S | O | T | | S | | | | | | |
| | G | R | I | E | V | O | U | S | | | | | | |

**MENSA PUZZLE**
16. Starting on the top left, and moving clockwise in a spiral towards the centre, numbers increase by 7, then decrease by 2. Repeat this pattern all the way around.

**QUOTE UNCODE**
My imagination functions much better when I don't have to speak to people.

**SUDOKU**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 1 | 4 |
| 1 | 8 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 7 |
| 5 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 3 |
| 2 | 9 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 1 |
| 4 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 2 |
| 3 | 6 | 8 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 9 |
| 7 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 8 |
| 9 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 7 |
| 8 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 6 |

**ALPHA TRIANGLE**
A, At, Pat, Tape, Pirate, Private.

**GO FIGURE**
Easy
$2 + 5 + 4 - 8 = 3$
Medium
$2 - 2 + 9 + 7 = 16$
Hard
$9 \times 4 / 9 - 1 = 3$

**LOOP**

**KAKURO**

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**# Telugu debut done**
Sonakshi Sinha took to social media to share her excitement as she wrapped up filming for her Telugu debut, 'Jatadhara'. On Tuesday, the actress posted a couple of her photos with her team

## Fashionistas' night out

Bollywood celebrities gathered in Mumbai for a glitzy celebration on Monday night, turning heads with their stylish appearances. Maddock Films marked its 20th anniversary with this star-studded party, celebrating two decades in the film industry. Big names like Vicky Kaushal, Shraddha Kapoor, Ananya Panday, Rajkumar Rao, Sara Ali Khan, Kriti Sanon, Rashmika Mandanna, and Sidharth Malhotra were seen at the bash, all dressed to impress.

Shraddha Kapoor chose a simple yet chic look with a white crew-neck T-shirt and navy blue wide-legged jeans. She added a colourful layered necklace, dainty earrings and sneakers to complete the outfit.

Ananya Panday kept it cool in a black body suit, cargo trousers and black pumps. Her soft, minimal makeup suited the laid-back style. Rashmika Mandanna brought glamour to the event in a deep berry strapless gown with a plunging neckline and figure-hugging fit. She paired it with statement earrings and strappy heels. A heartwarming moment came when siblings Sara Ali Khan and Ibrahim Ali Khan arrived together, twinning in black.

—ANI

## Dhanush sings a song

As a special treat for the fans, Dhanush has once again joined forces with Arun Vijay. The 'Raanjhanaa' actor has sung a special song for Arjun Vijay's "Retta Thala".

The beautiful track has been composed by Sam CS. The shooting for this song features international locations in a grand manner. The lyrical video of the song is scheduled to be released soon.

"Retta Thala" has Arun Vijay in the lead role, with Sidhhi Idnani as the female lead. The cast also includes Yogesh Samy as an antagonist, along with Hareesh Peradi, John Vijay, Balaji Murugadoss, Yog Japee, Nitish Nirmal and Vincent Asokan in supporting roles.

The drama is being produced by Bobby Balachandran at a grand scale of investment, making it the most lavish project in Arun Vijay's career.

—IANS

## True friends

After weeks of speculation and curiosity, Iranian-German actress Elnaaz Norouzi has finally broken her silence regarding the viral video that captured her with Hollywood star Gerard Butler.

A few days ago, a video showing Elnaaz and Gerard enjoying time together took the internet by storm. Some social media users speculated that they seemed to be holidaying together.

However, Elnaaz has now clarified that the personal moment was captured during a time when she and Gerard were working together on the film "Kandahar."

The 'Sacred Games' actress explained, 'I'm aware the video has been circulating. It was a personal moment from a time when Gerard and I were working together on Kandahar. I truly value the friendships and experiences that come from such projects, and I prefer to keep some memories private. I appreciate the interest, though.'

—IANS

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ANSHIKA GROVER II SEBA 96.33% | AMRUTHA A II CEBA 96.33% | BENITA R II CEBA 96.17% | VEDIKA S NAIDU II CEBA 96.17% | KAHKASHA II PCMB 96% | LIKHITHA H A II PCMB 95.83% | BINDU G II CEBA 95.67% | NISHA D II PCMC 95.67% | HEMASHREE II SEBA 95.50% | TEJUS S II CEBA 95.50%

DHRITI G PAI II PCMC 95.50% | RAKSHITH G M II PCMC 95.33% | HARSHITHA S II CEBA 95.17% | NIHITHA V II CEBA 95% | ROHINI R II CEBA 95% | SUMA P II PCMC 95% | HAARIKA S II PCMC 94.50% | PRANAV P II SEBA 94.50% | PRAGHATHI M K II PCMC 94.33% | MAANYA H M II CEBA 9433%

PREYUSH GOWDA II PCMB 94.33% | ROSELINE D II CEBA 94.17% | VEVASRI PATRA H II CEBA 94.17% | ETHAN II CEBA 94.17% | KASHISH KUMARI II CEBA 98.33% | KUSUMA P II CEBA 94% | R VARUN II CEBA 94% | K V VIVEK II PCMC 94% | RENUKA K II HEBA 93.83% | SANJAY KUMAR II CEBA 93.83%

KAMALESHD II SEBA 93.83% | PRARTHANA V II SEBA 93.83% | HAMSAVENI V II CEBA 93.67% | VISHAL S II SCBA 93.67% | YOGESH S II SEBA 93.67% | VISHWAS V II PCMB 93.67% | HARSHA YADAV S II CEBA 93.50% | PUNITH B K II CEBA 93.50% | SANIYA YADAV II PCMC 93.50% | B KUSUMA II CEBA 93.33%

MD MAAZ BAIG II CEBA 93.33% | KESHAVAVINI T II PCMB 93.33% | ISMAIL KHAN II CEBA 93.17% | HARSHITA II PCMC 93.17% | DARSHAN II PCMC 93% | DEEKSHA R II PCMC 93% | S LEKHANA II PCMC 93% | NANDITHA H N II SEBA 93% | MONISHA B K II PCMB 93% | ARYAN SUJAY II SEBA 92.83%

REBECCA ANNA II CEBA 92.83% | KISHAN S II PCMC 92.67% | GAYATHRI S II CEBA 92.50% | NISHA P II CEBA 92.50% | PRIYADARSHINI V II PCMB 92.33% | PRAVEEN C II CEBA 92.17% | RUCHITHA S II SEBA 92% | MOHAMED HUSSAIN II PCMB 92% | BINDU II PCMB 91.83% | NIKHITHA L II PCMB 91.8%

JYOTHI P B II PCMC 91.83% | N ARCHANA II PCMC 91.67% | ANGEL JULIE II HEBA 91.50% | RIHAAN JABBAR II CEBA 91.50% | MARIYA II PCMB 91.50% | NANDINI II SEBA 91.33% | DIVYASHREE L II MEBA 91% | S SHAJAHAAN II PCMC 91% | YASH THAKUR II CEBA 90.83% | M VAISHNAVI II PCMB 90.17%

KUMUDHA P S II CEBA 90% | SUSHMITHA R II PCMB 90% | S SHAJAHAAN II PCMC 91% | K P NIHARIKA II PCMB 91.16% | SRI RAKSHA R II PCMB 90.83% | ALEKHYA GP II PCMB 90.83% | NAYANA BJ II PCMB 90.83% | GAURAV II SCBA 90.83% | PRIYANSHU II PCMC 90.83% | SANDHYA. B II PCMC 90.17%

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